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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/939,592	08/28/2001	Yoshio Komaki	018656-243	3266
7590	10/12/2007		EXAMINER	
Platon N. Mandros Burns, Doane, Swecker & Mathis, L.L.P. P.O. Box 1404 Alexandria, VA 22313-1404			DANG, DUY M	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		2624		
		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
		10/12/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/939,592	KOMAKI, YOSHIO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Duy M. Dang	2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 8/7/07.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-10 and 12-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-10 and 12-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 7/13/07 and 8/7/07 has been entered and made of record.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 1/29/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's arguments with regard to the rejection of claims 1-10 and 12-20 under section 35 USC 103, it is noted that applicant's arguments were based on the ground that Sekine does not teach maintaining correction parameter values. The examiner respectively disagrees. For example, step S7 of figure 3 in Sekine teaches these claimed features. Specifically, the equation used in this step S7 comprise MV_i and CV_{i-1} and the values of these parameters MV_i and CV_{i-1} are maintained or not changed. Since the claimed "parameter values" is not specifically defined, applicant is reminded that the examiner is entitled to give the broadest reasonable interpretation to the language of the claims. The examiner is not limited to applicant's definition which is not specifically set forth in the claims. See In re Tanaka et al., 193 USPQ, (CCPA) 1977. Therefore, values of these parameters MV_i and CV_{i-1} are considered to be claimed "parameter values".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
4. Claims 1-3, 6-10, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekine et al. (USPN 6,049,354. Referred as "Sekine" hereinafter) in view of White et al. (USPN 5,721,427. Referred as "White" hereinafter).

The advanced statements set forth in paragraph 4 of the Final Office action mailed on April 19, 2007 are incorporated herein.

With regard to the scope of the newly added features "parameter values", the scope of the claim, claim 1 for example, is now interpreted to require "wherein selected correction parameter values are maintained for each frame image until next scene change information acquired." Sekine teaches these claimed features as described in figure 3. That is, the image-shake correction depicted at S4, for example, performs image correction until the incoming image immediately follows a scene change as depicted at S3 and described at column 5 lines 1-45. The equation used at step S7 in figure 3 of Sekine comprises MV_i and CV_{i-1} whose values correspond to the claimed "parameter values."

5. Claims 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekine in view of White as applied to claims 1-3, 6-10, and 12 above, and further in view of Horiike (USPN 6,353,683. Referred as Horiike hereinafter).

The advanced statements as set forth in the preceding paragraph 4 are incorporated herein. It is noted that the combination Sekine and White fails to specifically teach the features of "wherein the acquiring portion generates the scene change information based on a differential

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image of an image of a current frame and a predicted image of the current frame predicted from an image of a previous frame from the current frame” as required by claim 4. However, such claimed features are well known in the art as evidenced by the patent to Horike.

Horike teaches, in the same field of invention that of image prediction, wherein the acquiring portion (i.e., 100 of figure 1) generates the scene change information based on a differential image of an image of a current frame and a predicted image of the current frame predicted from an image of a previous frame from the current frame (See figure 1. Note that the “Bgd” outputted from subtracter 106 corresponds to the so called “scene change information”; the input “Pg1” to subtracter 106 from calculation unit 120 corresponds to the so-called “predicted image of the current frame predicted from an image of a previous frame from the current frame”). The motivation to do so is to reduce calculation because only the difference is coded instead of the whole image thereby, reduce data coded for transmission and receiving. This also reduces temporal redundancy as suggested by Horike in column 1 lines 15-25.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate such claimed features as taught by Horike in combination with the combination of Sekine and White for that reasons.

Regarding claim 5, Horike further teaches wherein the determining portion determines a correction process based on the predicted image (i.e., the subtracter 106 and motion compensation 122 in figure 1 refer to the so-called correction process).

6. Claims 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekine in view of Horike.

The advanced statements as set forth in the paragraph 4 of the Office action mailed on November 01, 2005 with regard to Sekine as applied to claims 1-3, 6-10 and 12 are incorporated herein.

The advanced statements as set forth in preceding paragraph 4 of this Office action with regard to Sekine as applied to claims 1-3, 6-10 and 12 are incorporated herein.

While Sekine fails to specifically teach the features of “wherein the acquiring portion generates the scene change information based on a differential image of an image of a current frame and a predicted image of the current frame predicted from an image of a previous frame from the current frame” as further required by claim 13, Sekine does teach the utilization of inter-frame coding as described in column 17 lines 31-33. However, such claimed features are taught by Horiike for example.

Horiike teaches, in the same field of invention that of image prediction, wherein the acquiring portion (i.e., 100 of figure 1) generates the scene change information based on a differential image of an image of a current frame and a predicted image of the current frame predicted from an image of a previous frame from the current frame (See figure 1. Note that the “Bgd” outputted from subtracter 106 corresponds to the so called “scene change information”; the input “Pg1” to subtracter 106 from calculation unit 120 corresponds to the so-called “predicted image of the current frame predicted from an image of a previous frame from the current frame”). The motivation to do so is to reduce calculation because only the difference is coded instead of the whole image thereby, reduce data coded for transmission and receiving. This also reduces temporal redundancy as suggested by Horiike in column 1 lines 15-25.

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Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate such claimed features as taught by Horiike in combination with Sekine for that reasons.

Regarding claim 14, Horiike further teaches wherein the determining portion determines a correction process based on the predicted image (i.e., the subtracter 106 and motion compensation 122 in figure 1 refer to the so-called correction process).

7. Claims 15-19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekine in view of White as applied to claims 1-3, 6-10, and 12 above, and further in view of Prentice et al. (US Pub 2003/0030729. Referred as "Prentice" hereinafter).

The advanced statements set forth in the preceding paragraph 6 with regard to the combination of Sekine and White as applied to claims 1-3, 6-10, and 12 are incorporated herein.

Regarding claim 15 as a representative claim, the combination of Sekine and Horiike fails to teach wherein the correction process is for correcting the image in terms of at least one of tone, hue, chroma, brightness and contrast. However, such claimed features are disclosed by Prentice, figure 7, for example. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate claimed features as taught by Prentice in combination with the combination of Sekine and White in order to allow for optimization of processing in separate modes and enhance image quality visually.

Likewise, claims 17-19 are also rejected for the same reasons as set forth in claim 15 above.

8. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sekine in view of Horiike as applied to claims 13-14 above, and further in view of Prentice et al. (US Pub 2003/0030729. Referred as "Prentice" hereinafter).

The advanced statements set forth in the preceding paragraph 6 with regard to the combination of Sekine and Horiike as applied to claims 13-14 are incorporated herein.

Regarding claim 20, the combination of Sekine and Horiike fails to teach wherein the correction process is for correcting the image in terms of at least one of tone, hue, chroma, brightness and contrast. However, such claimed features are disclosed by Prentice, figure 7, for example. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate claimed features as taught by Prentice in combination with the combination of Sekine and Horiike in order to allow for optimization of processing in separate modes and enhance image quality visually.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Duy M. Dang whose telephone number is 571-272-7389. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 6:00AM to 2:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eileen D. Lillis can be reached on 571-272-6928. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

dmd
10/07

Duy M. Dang
DUY M. DANG
PRIMARY EXAMINER